

60130-2053
OOMRA0265**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that it is not clear how movement of the latch arrangement from the unlatched closed position to the unlatched open position affects movement of the clutch member. Applicant has amended claim 1 to describe how the movement of the latch arrangement affects movement of the clutch member. The rejection has been overcome.

Claims 1-7, 9, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,386,599 to Chevalier. Chevalier does not disclose a latch arrangement including drive mechanism having a driving abutment rotatable about an axis and a clutch member having a clutch member abutment for selective engagement with the driving abutment, and the clutch member abutment follows a first arcuate path centered on the axis when the latch arrangement moves from a latched closed position to an unlatched closed position and follows a third path different from the first path when moving to the latch closed position as claimed. The Examiner states that the pawl actuator 30 and the gear 50 of Chevalier are the clutch member and the drive mechanism, respectively. The pawl actuator 30 includes a limb 33 that cams against an indentation 51 of the gear 50 (column 11, lines 60 to 62), and the limb 33 is engageable with the indentation 51 of the gear 50. However, the limb 33 does not follow a first arcuate path when the latch arrangement moves from a latched closed position to an unlatched closed position as claimed. Instead, the limb 33 first moves upwardly and then moves upwardly and to the right. This is not arcuate movement. When the latch arrangement return to the latched closed position, the limb 33 moves in the reverse direction along the same path. That is, the limb 33 moves downwardly and to the left and then moves downwardly. The limb 33 does not follow three different paths as claimed, but rather follows one path from the latched closed position to the unlatched closed position and moves in a reverse direction to return to the latched closed position. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

60130-2053
00MRA0265

Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

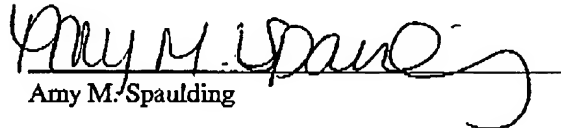


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 703-872-9306 on May 31, 2005.


Amy M. Spaulding